



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

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## Grand Canyon News Release

Release date: Immediate

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### **Grand Canyon fire officials continue plans for three prescribed fires if conditions permit**

**Grand Canyon, Ariz.** - Grand Canyon National Park fire officials are planning to conduct a prescribed fire on the North Rim, starting on October 19 if weather and forest conditions permit. The Southwest Roost unit is 2,130 acres and is located approximately nine air miles northwest of the North Rim developed area adjacent to Kanabownits Canyon and five miles north of Point Sublime. Aerial ignition will be used and it is anticipated that approximately 500 acres per day may burn. Smoke is projected to disperse to the northeast during the days of the burn. Smoke will likely settle into the canyon at night and begin to lift out with daytime heating by late morning.

Prior to prescribed burning, Grand Canyon National Park fire managers will evaluate weather conditions and coordinate with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. If conditions do not meet predetermined standards for air quality, burns will be postponed until conditions are appropriate.

As early as October 23, weather and forest conditions permitting, additional prescribed fires may be conducted, they are:

- The Uncle Jim unit, 3,350 acres and is located approximately two air miles northeast of the North Rim developed area along Fuller Canyon.
- The Walhalla unit, 1,028 acres and is approximately four air miles east of the North Rim developed area.

Fire managers use prescribed fire to restore and sustain the fire-dependant ecosystems that surround the Grand Canyon. Benefits from these fires include reducing hazardous fuels that can

lead to more intense wildfires, sustaining ecological processes like nutrient and biomass recycling, balancing plant regeneration and mortality, and providing a diversity of habitats for native plants and animals. Prescribed fires are typically ignited in the spring and fall when surface vegetation and fuels are dry enough to burn with low intensities while the underlying soils remain moist from seasonal precipitation.

Minor traffic delays are possible in the vicinity of these planned fires. When necessary, public safety personnel will direct traffic in these areas.

The Roosevelt Wildland Fire Use Fire continues to be inactive however fire managers have yet to call it out. It is located on the North Rim, seven miles east of the North Rim developed area. The Roosevelt Fire, a lightning-caused fire discovered July 19, has been allowed to burn for resource benefit. As of September 25, the last mapping of this fire, it had burned 4,959 acres.

The Cape Royal Road on the North Rim remains open; however, the National Park Service's (NPS) North Rim Visitor Center and associated North Rim visitor facilities closed for the season on Tuesday, October 16. All other Park facilities remain open. Starting October 16, a limited number of campsites with limited services on the North Rim, such as portable toilets, are available on a first-come, first-serve basis until snow closes Highway 67 (see Park's news release titled *Autumn colors signify that the end of another visitor season on the North Rim is near* – dated September 24, 2007 at <http://www.nps.gov/grca/parknews/newsreleases.htm> for further information on the North Rim).

For further information, please contact Maureen Oltrogge, Public Affairs Officer at Grand Canyon National Park, at (928) 638-7958; call the park's recorded fire information message at (928) 638-7819; or go to the park's Web site at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca).

For additional information on visiting Grand Canyon National Park please visit the Park's website at [www.nps.gov/grca](http://www.nps.gov/grca) or call (928) 638-7888.

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**Above photo:** A photograph of the Grandview prescribed fire, which occurred at the end of August on the South Rim.

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